

## Health Concern: Substance Abuse

EXTENT OF PROBLEM	POTENTIAL GOAL(S)
<p>Substance abuse has a major impact on individuals, families, and communities. The effects of substance abuse are cumulative, significantly contributing to costly social, physical, mental, and public health problems. These problems include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Teenage pregnancy</li><li>HIV/AIDS</li><li>Other sexually transmitted diseases</li><li>Domestic violence</li><li>Child abuse</li><li>Motor vehicle crashes</li><li>Physical fights</li><li>Crime</li><li>Homicide</li><li>Suicide</li></ul> <p>Youth who have engaged in binge drinking: 27.8% of high school students, 10.0% of middle school students</p> <p>Youth who have used prescription drugs without a prescription: 20.9% of high school students, 9.6% of middle school students</p> <p>Youth who have used methamphetamines: 6.2% of high school students (compared to 3.1% MT), 3.9% of middle schoolers (compared to 1.9% MT)</p> <p>High school students who have used marijuana at least once: 40.0% (compared to 21.2% MT)</p> <p><b>Healthy People 2020 Target: Youth ages 12-17 reporting use of alcohol or any illicit drug within the past 30 days: 16.6%</b></p>	<p>Reduce substance abuse to protect the health, safety, and quality of life for all, especially children.</p>

<p><b>RISK FACTORS</b></p> <p>There is now a deeper understanding of substance abuse as a disorder that develops in adolescence and, for some individuals, will develop into a chronic illness that will require lifelong monitoring and care. (HealthyPeople).</p> <p>Alcohol and drug use can be connected to a variety of other risky behaviors such as violence, unsafe sex, sexual assault, suicide, etc</p>	<p><b>POTENTIAL OBJECTIVE(S)</b></p> <p>Increase the percentage of adolescents who report never using alcohol/drugs.</p> <p>Increase the percentage of adolescents who report a greater perception of harm from using alcohol and other drugs.</p> <p>Increase the proportion of people identified and referred for alcohol and/or illicit drug treatment.</p> <p>Increase the percentage of people who received CD treatment for abuse or dependence in the past year.</p> <p>Reduce the proportion of adults/youth who engage in binge drinking.</p>
<p><b>COMMUNITY PARTNERS &amp; RESOURCES</b></p>	<p><b>POTENTIAL INTERVENTION STRATEGIES</b></p> <p>Increase the frequency of retailer compliance checks for laws against the sale of alcohol to minors in a community.</p> <p>Hold owner or server of a retail alcohol establishment where a customer recently consumed alcoholic beverages to be held legally responsible for harms inflicted by that customer. Examples of such harms may include death, injury or other damages as a result of an alcohol-related car crash.</p> <p>Support limits on days/hours when alcoholic beverages may be sold.</p> <p>Support legislation to increase alcohol taxes.</p> <p>Regulate the density of alcohol beverage outlets.</p> <p>Establish a lower illegal blood alcohol content for young or inexperienced drivers than for older or more experienced drivers.</p> <p>Maintain a community prevention coalition to assess, plan, implement and evaluate efforts to reduce substance abuse in L&amp;C County.</p>